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AUG 15 2002

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Manabu Nishizawa, Takayuki :
Wakimura, and Fumiteru Sato :
Application No. 10/024,469 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: December 18, 2001 :
Attorney Docket No. : 100809- :
00106(SCEY 19.288) :
Title: OBJECT DISPLAY PROGRAM :
FOR CONDUCTING VOICE :
MANIPULATION OF CHARACTER :

This is a decision on the petition filed August 5, 2002, requesting that application number 10/024,469 be accorded a filing date of December 18, 2001.

On May 9, 2002, the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE) mailed a Filing Receipt, stating that the application had been accorded a filing date of December 19, 2001.

In response, on August 5, 2002, applicants filed the present petition. Petitioners have included a copy of the first page of the specification¹, a copy of the Express Mail Label, bearing Express Mail Label Number EV 014264064 US², a copy of a printout from the United States Postal Service (USPS) Web-based Database³, and a copy of the postcard receipt⁴. Applicants request that application be accorded a filing date of December 18, 2001.

1 The specification contains a certificate of mailing dated December 18, 2001.

2 The express mail label contains a date of December 19, 2001.

3 The print-out shows a date-in of December 18, 2001.

4 The postcard receipt shows a date stamp of December 19, 2001, and a notation that the postcard was mailed to the Office on December 18, 2001.

Upon review of the record, the application is date stamped December 19, 2001. However, the evidence is convincing that the application papers were deposited on December 18, 2001, and the incorrect date was subsequently both placed on the USPS mailing label and stamped on the application. Therefore, the application was entitled to a filing date of December 18, 2001.

Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The application file is being returned to the Office of Initial Patent Examination for further processing with a filing date of December 18, 2001, as well as the mailing of a corrected filing receipt.

Any inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Petitions Attorney Paul Shanowski at (703) 305-0011.

Christina Patena Donnell for

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for Patent Examination Policy